

For immediate release:

The **Twenty-Seventh Annual High School Programming Contest**, co-sponsored by Willamette University and the TechStart Education Foundation, was held this past Saturday, April 20th, at Willamette's Putnam University Center in Salem, Oregon.

Fourteen teams participated in the contest, comprised of students from cities around Oregon. Students worked for five hours to write programs to solve as many problems as they could from a set of fourteen original problems. This year's contest problems involved such topics as multi-dimensional hypercube edge traversal, polynomial expression parsing and the generation of Google-maps style street directions. The problems are purposely written to cover a range of subjects and difficulties, and to provide inspiration for post-contest study when the teams return to their regular school efforts. Teams are awarded points for each problem solved, as well as bonus points for difficult problems (those solved by only one or two teams).

The first place award was won by a team from **Westview High School** of Portland, consisting of students Stanley Cen, Luke McDougald, Prahaladha Mallela and Eddie Wang, under teacher Eric Walters: they scored a stunning total of 186 points by solving all but one of the fourteen problems. Second place was taken by **Sherwood High School** team members Josh Trout and Tanner Cecchetti, coached by Terrell Smith, with a final score of 74 points. **Wilson High School** of Portland won third place with 60 points: their team consisted of Zack Swafford, James Waugh, Teddy Dutlow-Pressley and Joe Weissig under teacher Chris Bartlo. A team from **Tualatin High School**, including Kevin Gorbett, Chris Souza and Crhis Poach, under Jill Hubbard, solved the most problems among new teams to win the novice category. All the winning teams received eye-catching trophies to bring home and display in their schools' display cases. Associate professor Fritz Ruehr, the contest director, said that he and his team of Willamette student judges were stunned by the near-perfect performance by the Westview team, and by the high quality work and unflagging efforts of the teams in this year's highly competitive contest. After the contest, Thompson Morrison, CEO of Fuse Insight and board president of TechStart, addressed the assembled students and teachers. Morrison pointed out the synergy of technology and design which makes Oregon such an important force in shaping the future through technology, and invited them to participate in TechStart's community service efforts.

Team coaches and many other teachers attended TechStart's Spring SuperQuest teacher professional development training and Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association annual meeting, held concurrently with the contest. The teachers participated in curriculum training sessions in computer science subjects and heard keynote presentations during a hosted lunch.

The high school programming contest is held every year on a Saturday at Willamette University, a select liberal arts college in Salem. High school teams of from two to four members are invited to participate, even if they do not have formal computer programming classes. The contest is co-sponsored by the TechStart Education Foundation, the supporting non-profit of the Technology Association of Oregon. TechStart strives to make Oregon's K-12 schools a model for delivering a 21st century education that inspires students to become technology leaders and innovators for the state by providing teacher professional development and student enrichment activities in computer science, information technology and robotics.

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